

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION



Case Study: Boles Fire

Date/Time Started:	September 15, 2014 1:38 pm
Location:	City of Weed
Acres Burned:	516 acres
Structures Threatened:	1,000 single residences & 100 nonresidential commercial property
Structures Destroyed:	157 single residences & 8 nonresidential commercial property, 4 single residences damaged & 3 nonresidential commercial property damaged
Total Fire Personnel:	453
Total Fire Engines:	10
Total Fire crews:	14
Total Dozers:	2



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In the wake of the fire, a State Disaster Area was declared; this allowed for expedited clearance of the destroyed homes. This left behind large burned trees.



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Roseburg Forest products, the owner of the town's mill, was approached by a CAL FIRE representative about Roseburg's ability to harvest or accept logs from the now-vacant house parcels in town. Investigating what type of permits that would be required revealed several things.

A 1038(c) Exemption (which allows trees to be cut that are within 150-feet of a legal structure to "reduce fire spread, duration and intensity") could not be utilized because the requisite structures were gone.

Sacramento Headquarters suggested that a RM-67 Emergency Notice must be submitted for every lot, regardless of size. This is because any lot even with a single tree was considered "capable of and available for" timber production.

Possible Solutions

1. The Board has broad authority to define emergencies. The Board could declare such situations as emergencies, and adopt emergency regulations to fit the given scenario.
2. The Board could adopt regulations for areas that are zoned residential and allow a blanket exemption by declaring them as non-timberland.